

## **Weekly Status & Information Report: Week of March 7, 2005**

1. **Upcoming County Public Forum and Budget Hearings:** On Saturday, March 19 from 10 am to 12 noon, the County Council will hold a public forum on backlogs in county maintenance and infrastructure. The forum will be held in the 7th Floor Chamber of the Council Office Building, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville. On Tuesday, March 15, County Executive Doug Duncan will transmit his proposed FY06 County Budget to the Montgomery County Council. Public hearings on the budget are scheduled for April 5, 6, 7, and 11 at 7 pm and April 6 at 1:30 pm. The hearing on the 11th would focus on the Montgomery County Public Schools' budget. Persons wishing to testify should call 240-777-7931 beginning March 17. (*Community & Government Liaison*)
2. **Community Center Bond Bills:** The hearings before the Maryland House Appropriations Committee and Senate Budget and Taxation Committee regarding a requested State matching grant (bond bill) of \$1 million for the Takoma Park Community Center are scheduled for Saturday, March 19 at 4 and 5 pm, respectively. Contact Suzanne Ludlow at 301-891-7229 or [SuzanneL@takomagov.org](mailto:SuzanneL@takomagov.org), for more information. (*Community & Government Liaison*)
3. **Bi-County Transitway (Purple Line):** Maryland Transit Administration staff has been meeting with community groups in the Silver Spring area related to possible routes of the light rail or bus rapid transit line between the Silver Spring Metro Station and the proposed Long Branch Station near Flower Avenue and Piney Branch Road. The MTA is moving away from the idea of going underground across Takoma Park directly to a proposed Takoma-Langley Station because of strong community desire for a Long Branch Station, which would not have been accommodated by this route. Routes that are being investigated between Silver Spring and Long Branch are along Sligo Avenue and Piney Branch Road; behind the homes facing Silver Spring Avenue and Thayer Avenue and then along Piney Branch Road; and along Wayne Avenue and Manchester Road or Flower Avenue. A meeting to discuss these options is scheduled for Tuesday, March 15 at 7 pm at the Nora School, 955 Sligo Avenue. (*Community & Government Liaison*)
4. **Laurel Avenue Business Owners Meeting (Ward One):** HCD staff will be meeting next week with the owners of the businesses directly impacted by the planned improvements along Laurel Avenue. Information on the anticipated timing of the project and other construction details will be provided at the meeting. The project is to be coordinated by Associate Planner, Ilona Blanchard. (*Housing and Community Development*)
5. **Staffing Change:** Ms. Ivy Thompson, Community Development Specialist, has accepted a new position with Prince George's Department of Planning.

Currently responsible for the coordination of the City's grants efforts, Ms. Thompson has worked on a variety of redevelopment projects throughout the community since her employment in 2000. Her last day with the City of Takoma Park is Friday, March 11. (*Housing and Community Development*)

6. **505 Tulip Avenue (Ward One):** A request for a demolition permit for 505 Tulip Avenue is to be reconsidered by the Historic Preservation Commission on Wednesday, March 23. The property, formerly in use as nine-unit rooming house, was condemned by the City and Montgomery County last year and the occupants were relocated. The property was purchased by the current owners, Matro LLC, soon after the house was vacated. (*Housing and Community Development*)

7. **C-SAFE (Ward 6):** Chief Creamer attended the C-SAFE Oversight Committee meeting this week, as well as the Takoma-Langley Crossroads Development Authority meeting. Capt. Coursey and Sgt Gilbert attended the Montgomery County Highway Safety Office Task Force meeting; among topics discussed were participation in inter-jurisdictional drunk driving check points planned for later this spring. Sgt. Gilbert also attended meetings in preparation for the annual seat belt campaign of April/May. (*Police*)

8. **Detectives' Monthly Meeting:** Detectives attended the monthly robbery and burglary inter-jurisdictional meeting at the U.S. Attorneys office in D.C. (*Police*)

9. **2004 Officer of the Year:** The Police Awards Committee has selected A/Sgt. Det. Richard Poole as Officer of the Year 2004. As an investigator, he had a closure rate of 41.4 percent, or 51 of his assigned 123 cases. He effected 31 arrests on charges ranging from child abuse and burglaries to armed robbery and car-jacking. In July, Poole became an acting sergeant, with supervisory responsibilities, which he performed well while maintaining and resolving a regular case load. He joined the Department in August 1996. (*Police*)

10. **Crime Report (Ward 6):** The investigations unit notes that scattered burglaries have been reported throughout the city but they have not seen any significant patterns. This issue will be watched closely. Detectives are consulting with Montgomery County police regarding a robbery that occurred on New Hampshire Avenue, similar to another in the county. A black male, in a plain car, showed a gold police-type badge to a motorist and subsequently took property. (*Police*)

11. **Rabid Raccoon (Ward 1):** A raccoon shot by an officer last Friday tested positive for rabies. It was located in the unit block of Darwin Avenue. This is the first such incident since October 2004. (*Police*)

12. **Crime Report (Wards 2 & 6):** Ofc. Butler, X Sector Specialist with the COP Team, is focusing on businesses in X8 and X9, which have a history of repeated

shoplifting and other crimes. He has conducted 8-10 commercial security surveys, with additional planned. He will move on to all businesses in the New Hampshire Avenue corridor. *(Police)*

13. **Emergency Preparedness Symposium:** The police are working with the Public Safety Citizens Advisory Committee (PSCAC) to promote the upcoming emergency preparedness symposium, "How to Survive the First 72 Hours." All stakeholders should send at least one representative to this meeting, March 19, 1-4 p.m. in the City Council Chambers. *(Police)*

14. **The Afternoon Addition:** The Afternoon Addition (after school program) students have been preparing for their annual Talent and Fashion Show to be held on March 18, 2005 at 4:30 p.m. Some kids will be playing their instruments, singing, doing double dutch, doing basketball tricks, or drumming on home made drums. *(Recreation)*

15. **Y.E.S. League:** The 2nd annual Winter Y.E.S. League wrapped up with our All-Star Nite at Takoma Park Middle School on Thursday, March 3rd. The DC All-Stars put on a show, beating our JV All-Stars 85-61 in an unbelievable shooting exhibition. The main event between the Varsity All-Stars and YES League Staff & Coaches was a close game that went down to the wire. The Coach/Staff team prevailed, 60-56, to retain bragging rights in this annual affair. A capacity crowd was very appreciative of the effort put forth on all sides. Cheers! *(Recreation)*

16. **Staff Basketball Game:** The third annual TP Recreation Department vs. TP Middle School staff basketball game was held last Friday, March 4. This annual event is held in partnership with the Middle School PTA to assist in the annual book and music sale fundraiser. Once again, the Recreation Department was victorious, 78-49. Coach Dachia Pinkard's team consisted of Betty Johnson, Bryan Pinkard, Alex McDonnell, Cedric Brickey, Alycia Stover, Chalindra Anthony, Angel Rivera and Corey Vaughn. *(Recreation)*